

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 EUR-25 IO-14 AF-10

AID-20 CCO-00 FBO-01 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NIC-01 NSC-10

SPC-03 OC-06 OPR-02 PA-04 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01

OMB-01 SS-20 SY-10 SCS-03 DRC-01 /171 W

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P R 110911Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4777

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1432

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, IS, JO

SUBJ: CONTINUED TERRORIST INCIDENTS ON WEST BANK AND
ISRAELI COUNTERMEASURES

REF: JERUSALEM 1393

1. IN WAKE OF FURTHER TERRORIST INCIDENTS ON WEST BANK, GOI
HAS AGAIN RESORTED TO DESTRUCTION OF HOUSES AND DEPORTATIONS.
FIVE HOUSES WERE BLOWN UP IN JENIN DEC 9, ACCORDING TO PRESS,
FOLLOWING ARREST OF FOUR OWNERS. FIFTH OWNER BEING SOUGHT.
ALL ARE YOUNG MEN ACCUSED OF PARTICIPATION IN INCIDENTS DURING
PAST FEW WEEKS. SEVEN WEST BANKERS AND ONE EAST JERUSALEM
RESIDENT, ALL JORDANIAN CITIZENS, WERE DEPORTED TO JORDAN
DEC 10 FOR "ANTI-ISRAELI" ACTIVITIES. INCLUDED AMONG DEPORTEES
WERE MAYOR ABDEL JAWAD SALEH OF BIREH, EAST JERUSALEM ATTORNEY
AND SUPREME MOSLEM COUNCIL MEMBER ABDUL MOHSEN ABU MAIZER
(SEE JERUSALEM 1375), TWO RAMALLAH RESIDENTS, AND FOUR NABLUS
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RESIDENTS. RADIO AMMAN CLAIMS THIS BRINGS TOTAL DEPORTEES

TO 1508.

2. DEC 8 MID-DAY GRENADE ATTACK ON ISRAELI MILITARY GOVERNOR OF NABLUS, COL ELIEZER SEGEV, IN WHICH HE AND DRIVER WERE INJURED, FOLLOWED CLOSELY EXCHANGE OF SMALL ARMS FIRE BETWEEN SECURITY FORCES AND GROUP OF ALLEGED TERRORISTS IN HEBRON NIGHT OF DEC 7 IN WHICH ONE ARAB KILLED. PRESS REPORTS SEGEV "OUT OF DANGER" FOLLOWING OPERATION BUT EXTENT HIS INJURIES NOT KNOWN PRECISELY.

3. ATTACK ON NABLUS MILGOV LED ISRAELI SECURITY FORCES TO IMPOSE CITY CURFEW FOR 24 HOURS (SAID TO BE FIRST IN 4 YEARS) AND TO ORDER ISRAELI VISITORS TO LEAVE TOWN. THEY REPORTEDLY MADE 150 ARRESTS AND CONDUCTED HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCHES. FOUR TULKARM RESIDENTS ALSO REPORTEDLY ARRESTED, AND TWO YOUNG MEN FROM HEBRON AREA ARE UNDER ARREST FOR DEC 4 GRENADE INCIDENT IN JERUSALEM'S OLD CITY (REFTEL), ONE REPORTEDLY HAVING ADMITTED RESPONSIBILITY.

4. COMMENT. TERRORIST ATTACKS APPEAR TO BE INCREASING IN BOLDNESS AND FREQUENCY AS GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE DRAWS NEAR. PRESUMABLY FEDAYEEN INTEND IN FIRST INSTANCE TO DEMONSTRATE COST AND DIFFICULTY OF MAINTAINING OCCUPATION. WARNING TO WEST BANKERS AGAINST COOPERATION WITH HASHEMITES OR ISRAELIS IS ALSO IMPLICIT. ISRAELI RESPONSE APPEARS TO CONSIST OF STANDARD TACTICS, HITHERTO SUCCESSFUL, FOR COWING WEST BANK INTO SUBMISSION. IT ALSO HAS EFFECT, AND POSSIBLY INTENTION, OF STRIKING AGAINST CURRENT PRO-PLO WAVE OF SENTIMENT--ABU MAIZER, FOR EXAMPLE, IS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN INFLUENTIAL IN PREPARATION OF PRO-PLO MOSLEM COUNCIL STATEMENT OF DEC 3 (JERUSALEM 1406). WHATEVER THE MOTIVATION, INCIDENTS WILL DO NOTHING TO ENHANCE ISRAELI WILLINGNESS TO DEAL WITH PLO REPRESENTATIVES IN ANY PEACE NEGOTIATION. IN ADDITION TO COMPLICATING PALESTINIAN ASPECT OF PEACE EFFORTS, RESURGENCE OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND RENEWED HARSH ISRAELI COUNTERMEASURES ARE BOUND TO INCREASE TENSION AND FEAR AMONG WEST BANKERS. HONEST EXPRESSION OF VIEWS BY WEST BANKERS ON THEIR POLITICAL FUTURE, PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION, ETC.--NEVER READILY FORTHCOMING--WILL BE EVEN MORE INHIBITED.

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